



## David Bray

March 21, 1932 - February 10, 2021

### David Bray

Jennings: It is with the heaviest of hearts that the family of David Bray announces the passing of their dear Patriarch. He passed on from this life on the 10th of February 2021, at the age of 88. David was born on March 21, 1932 — in Jennings, Louisiana—to Reverend Samuel Bray and Lou Ida Guidry Bray; both of Jennings, Louisiana.

David was strong in faith. He began and ended each day praying, reading his bible and communing with God. His two favorite scriptures were John 15:12, “This is my commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you” and 2Timothy 1:7, “God has not given us the spirit of Fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

David attended Jefferson Davis High School, where he played various sports. It was there that he inevitably formed life long friendships. It was also there that his fun loving nature and competitive aptitude developed him into a talented athlete, as his love for sports flourished. Following his high school graduation, David bravely and honorable served his country in the United State Army Military Police Corps. Upon returning from his deployment in Germany, David studied at Southern University (Baton Rouge); earning a degree in Kinesiology in only three years! After earning his degree, he worked for the city of New Orleans before returning to the Jennings community where he married the love of his life, Goldie Wilridge in 1960. David and Goldie

enjoyed many years together. Together, they became charter members of the original "Club 21", creating space for making memories with neighbors, family and friends. Through their life together, they also shared David's love of sports; each excelling on their own bowling teams, where they competed and won tournaments across the state of Louisiana. It was here that David was again recognized for his sportsmanship and athleticism, bowling a Perfect 300, not once, but twice during their involvement in the league. Their union was also blessed to welcome their most precious gift, their son Shawn Q. Bray (Esq.). David's family was his first priority and he could commonly be found outside cutting the grass, making sure not only his yard was taken care of, but make himself available to give the same meticulous attention to the homes of his mother and other close family and neighbors who needed him.

David's lifelong commitment and dedication to serving others in his community led him to begin his career with the Jeff Davis Sherriff's Department in 1966. Proudly, he became one of the first African American Deputies to serve, until his retirement in 1990. He was known for his generosity in helping anyone in need, as he supported many philanthropic organizations throughout his life. He was a member of American Legion Post 520, as well as a Prince Hall Mason. David loved football and never missed watching a Saints game; he was also a very strategic Dominoes player.

David Bray was a devoted husband until the end, spending the last 5 years of his life, caring for his beloved wife amidst her health challenges. Those left behind to carry his legacy are his wife, Goldie Marie Wilridge Bray (61 years); son Shawn Q. Bray, Esq. (Chelsea) of Baton Rouge; his grandchildren Maddyson Q. Bray, Harrison R. Bray and Carson C. Bray; Sisters Della Severin (the late Height, Sr.), Jane Bray and Joycie Williams (Matthews), all of New Orleans; sister-in-laws Rose Guilbeau (Harry, of Jennings), Rena Bray (Late Samuel, of Jennings), Lettie Mae Wilridge (Late Homer of Crowley); his nieces, Shannon Williams-Profit, Sheila Williams, Sharon Guilbeau-Brown (Micheal) and nephews Height Williams, Jr. and Samuel Bray III; and yet a

host of other nieces and nephews.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend Samuel and Lou Ida Bray; brother Samuel Bray Jr.; brother David Smith Bray, sister Melissa Bray; great –uncle Reverend Curly Guidry; and great-niece Osha Bray.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend visitation for Mr. Bray on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Services will begin at 11:00 am, followed by a Celebration of Life at 2:00 pm. in the Chapel of Matthews and Son Funeral Home, 511 Cutting Avenue, Jennings, Louisiana 70546.

A committal service will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 12:30 PM at the Southwest Louisiana War Veterans Cemetery.

Following Mr. Bray's example, his family encourages donations in his honor to the St. Jude Children's Hospital and Research Fund or a charity of your choice.

To extend online condolences, please visit our website at [www.matthewsandsfuneralhome.net](http://www.matthewsandsfuneralhome.net)

Arrangements have been entrusted to Matthews & Son Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Southwest Louisiana Veteran's Cemetery

1620 Evangeline Hwy  
Jennings, LA 70546

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 20. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Matthews Funeral Home - JENNINGS  
511 N. Cutting Avenue  
Jennings, LA 70546  
(337) 824-4420  
jimmy@matthewsfh.com  
<https://www.matthewsandsonfuneralhome.net/>

## Celebration of Life

FEB 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

Matthews Funeral Home - JENNINGS  
511 N. Cutting Avenue  
Jennings, LA 70546  
(337) 824-4420  
jimmy@matthewsfh.com  
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## Committal Service

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FEB **22**. 12:30 PM.

Southwest Louisiana War Veterans Cemetery

# Tribute Wall



“ *David Bray*

January 28, 2023 at 04:12 PM



“ *I went to work with the Jeff Davis Sheriff's Office in August 1972 in the Radio Room. At that time Austin Sonnier was the supervisor and David Bray and Louis Trahan were the other two Radio Operators. I stayed there until Christmas of 1975 When I decided to return to McNeese full time. The three plus years I was at the Sheriff's Office, David was into Bowling and while visiting at shift change, it was common to see him taking several steps and going into his ball release motion. I had did a search on the internet before Christmas trying to see if any of Sheriff de Launay's Deputies from when I worked there were still alive. I found out that David was still alive and was hoping that maybe the virus would slack off so that people could visit again. However I learned today that David has passed on. I can still see his smile in my mind from happier times.. Rest in Peace.*

*John F. "Freddie" de Launay Feb. 27, 2021*

**John F (Freddie) de Launay** - February 27, 2021 at 11:09 PM



“ *I knew David for most of his time at the Sheriff's Office. He was one of the finest people that I have had the pleasure to know....always professional, kind & open hearted. I am truly saddened by his loss.*  
*Wendell Miller*

**Wendell Miller** - February 22, 2021 at 12:48 PM

TH

“ I loved David like a brother. He was such a good man. He trained me in the radio room back in 1975. He was the kindest most gentle deputy sheriff on staff. Never an unkind or mean word was ever heard from him. He treated people better than anyone else I knew.



The department back then under deLaunay was the best it could ever be and all the people that worked there then were good honorable people, but there was not any of them like David. He was beyond typical and beyond good. He was a quiet soft spoken leader. I never once heard him raise his voice and never in anger. He was so steady and even keeled that he set a great example for all that came in contact with him.

The last time I saw him I was so happy to get to talk to him. My biggest regret today is not making a good enough effort to see him again. I had planned to call him to meet me for coffee just to talk and catch up on our lives after retirement. However, I have been ill and was never able to do this and it hurts me now for missing out. When I just read that he passed, it broke my heart. I wanted to to the funeral but my arthritis is so bad I could barely walk today. I have already started praying for him and will never stop praying for him.

I read that he was 88 yrs old but he did not look like he was getting that old when I saw him. If anything, he had a good life and a long life. Better than most of us will have.

I know he is happy where he is now as it was promised to us for a good life. Before his passing we were only 4 left from the deLaunay days. Now we are three. That era is almost closed and sealed. It will not be too much longer before I get to see David again, and I am looking forward to it.

Go be with God David and enjoy eternity loyal and faithful servant.

*Thomas Hensgens  
Jennings.*

**Thomas Hensgens** - February 20, 2021 at 09:42 PM



“ 49 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Matthews Funeral Home** - February 20, 2021 at 11:59 AM

ED

“ *My family is deeply sorry about the loss of Mr. David Bray. As you grieve, know that we are remembering and honoring him with prayer. I will always remember him in many positive ways. He was an intelligent man and he always had great a story. We loved him dearly.*  
*Ella Dartez*



**Ella Dartez** - February 20, 2021 at 09:19 AM

WG

“ *Condolences to the family. Praying that God will comfort you... I was a neighbor of his mother and remember him going to mow her yard, very nice man.*

*Willard Gooden -Shaw  
Austin, Tx.*

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**Willard Gooden-Shaw** - February 19, 2021 at 02:42 PM

DM

“ *Della B. ,Hietz N, Sheila S., Asha M. purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of David Bray.*



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**Della B. ,Hietz N, Sheila S., Asha M.** - February 19, 2021 at 02:06 AM